

**TOWN OF MAXTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
December 19, 2023 7:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

The Board of Commissioners of Maxton, North Carolina met in formal session in the meeting chambers of the Town of Maxton Town Hall located at 201 McCaskill Avenue Maxton, North Carolina at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Paul Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack, Mayor Christopher McDougal, Commissioner Michael Hines

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Michael Cousar and Amber Quatkemeyer, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Police Chief Shirra Johnson, and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

**Call to Order-** Mayor Paul G. Davis

**Invocation-** Commissioner Bethea

**Does any member have any known conflict of interest and appearances of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.** None

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

1. Minutes from Board Meeting of November 21, 2023
2. Records Destruction Log 2023

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Approval of Proposed Agenda:**

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Proposed Agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- a) Air Burner Project Budget Amendment

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Air Burner Project Budget amendment. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Cemetery Landscape Budget Amendment

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Cemetery Landscape Budget Amendment. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Commissioner Bethea asked if the price would include them doing the landscape every two weeks. Manager Pitchford informed Commissioner Bethea that it would be stated in the contract once it is made out.

c) Sidewalk Renovation Budget Amendment

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Sidewalk Renovation Budget Amendment. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Beacham Park Light Install Budget Amendment

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Beacham Park Light Install Budget Amendment. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Southeast Regional Airport Authority Applications

Mayor Davis stated that the terms will now be appointed in 1, 2, and 3 year increments. Once the term is served they will be appointed a four year term. This is being done so that the members will no longer phase out at the same time. Mayor Davis thanked everyone that has been a part of this and is excited about the great changes coming to the Airport such as extending the runway to 8,000 feet to accommodate larger aircrafts. Mayor Davis appointed Commissioner Womack for a one year term, Mr. Joe Clark to a two year term, and Mr. Emmett Morton to a three year term. Mayor Davis stated that each of the applicants have either served or are currently serving on the board and doing an excellent job.

**Receding of Mayor Paul Davis and Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore after the Old Business was completed.**

**Installation Oath of Office By as follows**

**Pastor Gypsie Murdough  
Mayor Christopher Bethea-McDougal**

**NC Representative Garland Pierce  
Commissioner Paul McDowell**

**Robeson County (Maxton) Magistrate Amy McCrimmon  
Commissioner Toni Bethea  
Commissioner Michael Hines**

- **10 Minute Break for Pictures, Meet Greet**
- **Newly elected will take their respective seat**

**New Business:**

a) Brianna Goodwin Executive Director of Robeson County Church and Community Mayor Bethea-McDougal introduced speaker Brianna Goodwin of Robeson County Church and Community. Ms. Goodwin informed the board of the intent of her organization requesting to put playground equipment at Beacham Park. The equipment values at fifty thousand dollars and would be at no cost to the town. Ms. Goodwin is not asking for a vote at this time but would like to have a final vote by the middle of February.

**Public Forum: (2 MINUTES ONLY)** NOTE: Please state your full legal name. The board & staff will not respond to individual comments or questions during the public forum. If you want our staff members to follow up with you, you can give your address and phone number to the Town Clerk.

Sandra McCallum asked that the Town have someone to clarify the water situation. Stating that a lot of people don't understand the notice that was sent out concerning the radium levels.

David McEachin commended the Town and employees for the great parade. Stating that every year the parade gets better.

Allen Encinosa stated that he is concerned about the water conditions. Questioning what test have been done and ask for more information due to the notice not being descriptive enough. He also ask if citizens were going to continue getting charged for bad water.

Robert Macy is concerned about Public Schools of Robeson County will use our water issues against the Town to take away our schools. He is also concerned about local restaurants still using it to cook with.

Brian Lundy is concerned about the water and is questioning if something can be done before the June 2024 date that was listed on the notice. Stating that he would like answers by the next monthly meeting.

Cynthia Encinosa stated that she is concerned about the water. Wondering where our water source is and what would make the radium levels spike. Asking if the Town has looked into acid filtration as a fix for the current problem.

Charlotte Lundy ask who is responsible for the sample coming from the wrong location and what the city is doing about the radium.

## **Reports:**

### **Public Works**

Dennis Freeman spoke on the radium concern stating that he is working alongside Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson and Town Manager Pitchford. Informing the citizen that the Town is working with the state as well and that all testing that has been done since has come back at normal levels. They are staying on top of it and reaching out to find ways to pin point what caused the original spike in radium.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson also gave some insight as to what radon actually is and stated that the Town is doing a lot of investigation to pin point what caused the spike. He stated the Town is working closely with the state to stay on top of the issue and figuring out what the Town is actually dealing with to choose the right plan of action.

### **Recreation**

Jamie Smith reported on Recreation stating that the Recreation Committee is made up of volunteers. For the 2023 year the Recreation Committee completed seventy projects and events. She stated that Robeson County Church and Community provides a food pantry in Maxton on the fourth Thursday of every month.

### **Police Department**

Chief Johnson greeted the audience and encouraged them to check on people this holiday season that may be having a hard time with depression or that are alone during this time. Chief Johnson also gave a few safety tips for while people are out doing their holiday shopping. He suggest keeping gifts covered up inside cars and parking in well-lit areas. He also reminded everyone that December 20, 2023 the Police Department will be holding a Shop with a Cop event. They have eighteen kids that they will be taking out to get gifts for their families and taking to lunch afterward. He recognized Sargent Brewington and Lieutenant Hunt for their hard work and dedication during the time the Police Department was short staffed. Chief Johnson also recognized Officer Hunt for his tremendous improvement deeming him Officer of the Quarter.

### **Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Womack thanked the citizens for keeping the Town clean and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

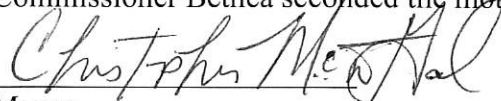
Commissioner McDowell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked the citizens for bringing up their concerns.


Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor McDougal wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

### **Adjourn**

Mayor McDougal request to adjourn meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

  
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Mayor

  
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Town Clerk